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recognized at
board meeting



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to 3-1



The Elba Clipper

Volume 127, Number 12 50 Cents Elba, Alabama Thursday, August 10, 2023

1 Section, 8 Pages Plus 1 Adv Insert

Elba Police Chief terminated

by Linda Hodge, Editor

The Elba City Council made its decision Friday, Aug. 4, on the employment of Troy Staley as police chief for the city.

Staley had been on paid administrative leave since June 17th, and an employment hearing, in executive session, began during the July 24th Elba City Council meeting after Mayor Tom Maddox made a recommendation to terminate Staley's employment.

The police chief position is one of two appointed-by-the-mayor positions for the city. The other is the city clerk position.

The council postponed the July 24th executive session after being in deliberations for over three hours.

Last Friday, that executive session was reconvened just after 2 p.m. after the council called the Aug. 4th special meeting to order.

Deliberations continued for another 6 hours and 20 minutes Friday evening before the council returned to open session at approximately 8:24 p.m. After returning to the open meeting, it was announced that no decisions were made during the executive session.

Then, Mayor Maddox said to the council, "I understand you are ready to make a decision on the question before the council."

Between the two meetings (July 24th and Aug.

Zion Chapel duo completes high school fishing careers with '4th place' finish at national event

Saturday, Sept. 14, 2019, when the Zion Chapel Bass Team members launched their boats into the Tensaw River for their first fishing tournament, they began writing a book chapter by chapter. Team Avery Padgett and Ethan Young completed the fourth volume the last week in July 2023.

Team Avery Padgett/Ethan Young is the only team remaining on the ZC Team which was organized in 2019. Some members graduated, and others chose to focus on other sports.

Team Padgett/Young qualified for NATIONALS in the spring. This was no ordinary tournament; it was the biggest of the big. It was the Strike King BASSMASTER High School National Championship presented by Academy Sports + Outdoors, Lake Hartwell, Anderson, South Carolina, hosted the tournament.

The ZC team, with their Coaches Dana Stinson Hally and Larry Campbell left Alabama on July 22 and reached their destination by the end of the day. Their captain Logan Parks joined them later. More and more family members showed up to support them as the week progressed and the excitement mounted.

They were able to fish for three days prior to the actual tournament. No teams were allowed on the lake on Wednesday, July 26. This day was reserved for registration and briefings for the teams and their captain.

A total of 481 boats represented 39 states and two from Canada. It was a three-day tournament. The first two days 481 teams competed. On day three only the top twelve teams

4], over nine hours was spent in executive session for the employment hearing for Staley. Several 'witnesses' were called during the hearing.

Council member Bryan Grimes made a motion to uphold the mayor's recommendation for termination of Troy Staley as police chief. Council member Jane Brunson provided a second to that motion, and a roll call vote was taken by city clerk Sally Bane.

Council member Johnathan Lockett voted no while council members Grimes, Brunson, and Gappa Wise voted yes. Council member A R Williams abstained from voting.

"The majority of the council votes to uphold [termination]," Mayor Maddox announced.

City attorney Bart Boothe then asked for a moment to confer with other counsel. After a brief discussion, Boothe said the mayor would need to vote on the matter too due to the Williams' abstaining.

Maddox also voted yes to the motion.

The meeting was then adjourned.

The city council made no further comment on the matter. For the time being, Lt. Shayne Arnett continues to serve as interim police chief for Elba.

The next regular meeting for the Elba City Council will be Monday, Aug. 14, at 5:30 p.m. at Elba City Hall.



NEW BROCKTON MIDDLE SCHOOL OFFICIALLY OPEN... The Coffee County School System held a ribbon cutting ceremony Thursday evening, Aug. 3, to officially open the newly constructed New Brockton Middle School building, which will house seventh and eighth grades. NBMS principal Bradley Bowers thanked all in attendance for coming to the ribbon cutting ceremony. He noted this was a special day for the students and faculty in having the new middle school building ready for the 2023-2024 school year. After a few more brief remarks, Bowers was joined by assistant principal Ranae Eddins in "cutting the ribbon" as they were surrounded by Coffee County School Board members, Superintendent Kelly Cobb, local queens, NBMS student representatives and more.

Zion Chapel School burglary leads to arrest of two Troy, Ala. residents

Deputies with the Coffee County Sheriff's Office responded Sunday, July 30, to a reported burglary at Zion Chapel High School in Jack, Ala.

Sheriff Scott Byrd said

the investigation led to the

arrest of two suspects from

Troy, Ala. Coffee County

was assisted by the Troy

Police Department.

On Friday, Aug. 4,

Matthew Gary Baker, age

32, and Tiffany Jo Baker,

age 33, both of Troy, were

arrested and charged with

burglary – third degree and

theft of property – second

degree. The suspects were

booked into the Coffee

County Jail were bond was

set at \$15,000 for each of the

burglary charges and

\$10,000 for each of the theft



Matthew Gary Baker and Tiffany Jo Baker

of property charges.

Jail records indicate that Tiffany Jo Baker was released Monday, Aug. 7, on bond while Matthew Gary Baker remained in the county jail as of press time this week.

Sheriff Byrd thanked the Troy Police Department for its help in locating the suspects.

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charges.

Upon recommendation of

superintendent Kelly Cobb,

the board approved the

resignation of New Brockton

Middle School teacher

Ashley Currie.

Two additional teacher

resignations were approved,

but these were only to allow

these teachers to enter into

contract with the school

system under TEAMS con-

tracts for either math or

science. Rene' Donaldson,

teacher at Kinston, and

Connie Nichols, teacher at

New Brockton Middle

School, were approved for

employment under TEAMS

contracts for the upcoming

school year.

The only other person-

nel matter approved by the

board during the meeting

was the employment of

Howard Purvee, teacher at

Elba Police make arrests

According to Coffee County Jail records, Elba Police arrested Christopher O'Neal, age 48, on Wednesday, Aug. 2, for possession of a controlled substance. His address was listed as Other, Ala.

Bond for the charge was set at \$3,000. As of press time this week, O'Neal remained in the county jail.

Elba Police investigated a stabbing/cutting incident Friday afternoon, Aug. 4, after a victim appeared at the Elba Police Department with a reported facial wound.

The incident was reported at 4:56 p.m. Friday afternoon.

A short time later, Elba Police arrested Maranda Strickland, age 28, of Elba for her alleged role in this incident. She was charged with domestic violence – second degree. Her bond was set at \$30,000.

According to jail records, Strickland also was held on a parole violation. She remained in the Coffee County Jail as of press time this week.

Coffee County BOE approves personnel matters

by Linda Hodge, Editor

New Brockton Elementary School for the new school year.

Also, during the meeting, the board approved a motion to allow the superintendent to bid the baseball/softball facility project at Zion Chapel School.

In her comments to the

board, the superintendent

noted the first day of the

school year for students

would be Friday, Aug. 4.

She said the staff was "ready

to welcome them back."

Also, Cobb noted the

school system had com-

pleted a successful start-of-

school in-service for faculty

and staff. She said she is

anticipating a great school year for Coffee County Schools.

Board members echoed similar remarks as they too hoped for a successful year.

Board president Galen McWaters noted the next regular meeting for the board would be Thursday, Sept. 7, at 5:30 p.m.

Following the meeting, board members walked over to the new New Brockton Middle School building to participate in a ribbon cutting ceremony for that new facility.

They also were provided tours of the facility following the official ribbon cutting.

Area Happenings

The Elba Chamber of Commerce/Elba Main Street in conjunction with the Elba Historic Preservation Committee invites all to enjoy an evening with The Dothan Moonlighters in Elba.

The concert will be Thursday, Aug. 10, beginning at 6 p.m. in the historic Elba Theatre, located at 231 Court Ave., Elba.

This is a fund raiser for an Elba Museum. Tickets are \$15 each and include light hors d'oeuvres. Tickets can be purchased at LillieAnne's, My Happy Place, and Son Exposure.

Elba High School's "Meet the Tigers" will be Thursday, Aug. 17, at 6 p.m., at Tiger Stadium. All Tiger fans are encouraged to come out and meet the football players, cheerleaders, band members, and more for the start of the 2023 high school sports season.

The Elba Lions Club will meet Tuesday, Aug. 22, at 6 p.m., with a special guest speaker. All members are urged to attend. Meetings are held at the Elba Senior Citizens Center, located on the square in Elba.

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EDITORIAL

BRAINSTORMS

With Ferrin Cox

"I am extraordinarily patient, provided I get my own way in the end." — Margaret Thatcher

Former TROY and NFL football star DeMarcus Ware did a beautiful job singing the national anthem at a recent preseason Hall of Fame game. He did himself, TROY and his hometown of Auburn, AL proud with his performance. Ware played for the Dallas Cowboys (2005–2013) and Denver Broncos (2014–2016) during his 12-year NFL career. He sang ahead of the Hall of Fame preseason opener between the Cleveland Browns and New York Jets on Thursday in Canton, Ohio.

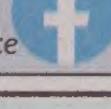
The extreme heat is awful in Elba, Alabama these days, but thankfully not as hot as in many other places. It almost got us several weeks ago on a Saturday morning. We went out early to mow the grass 'before it got hot.' Well, that was a pipe dream as it was already hot. Realizing after about 45 minutes that our clothes were soaked with sweat, we called it a day. However, after cooling down for a while we were still weak, blood pressure was extremely low, etc. We came on to the office but went home about ten and collapsed on the sofa for several hours. Fast forward to last Saturday and we modified our mowing routine. We mowed for about 30 minutes and then went inside and cooled for 30-45 minutes before trying it for another half hour. Three of those breaks got us through the front yard safely. The back yard had to wait until another day! We urge our readers to be equally - or more - cautious.

The Elba City Council voted in a 1-0-0-0-n-g special session last Friday to uphold the Mayor's dismissal of the Elba Police Chief. He had been on paid leave for several weeks. Most of their session during this full afternoon (and into the night) of meeting was held in executive session with the lawyers on both sides probably doing most of the talking. No announcement has been made on the hiring of a new chief, but that has got to be done sometime.

Donald Trump is in the news daily, wherever you get your national news. We try to ignore most of that chatter, but it is just too tempting to completely ignore. Every week we read something that astonishes even with our long practice of keeping up with politics. One tidbit from last week still has us amazed. That story summed up the KNOWN amount of money Trump has spent on defense lawyers in recent years. The numbers are in the millions – and still growing! Of course, much of it is paid by donations to various Trump oriented groups by average Americans, but still that is a lot of money. Put us in his spot and it would just be "go ahead and lock me up - ain't no way I can afford the legal fees to fight your charges, regardless of how dumb I might think they are!"

Business of the Month:
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Cuzin Lou Lou's Tales from Yonder

Editor's Note: Cuzin Lou Lou's tales are to be enjoyed as a light-hearted form of Southern expression

Papa went for his every six months blood work with his general practitioner last week, and Cuzin Lou Lou and Sister warned him ahead of time that those sugar numbers might be elevated!

Now, as of this report, Papa has not seen his doctor for the review of his lab work, but Lou Lou has things set up where she gets a copy of said lab work as soon as the lab finishes processing his tests. So...she got a look ahead of time, and as predicted, Papa's sugar level was still a little too sweet!

Papa is convinced that as long as he takes his medicine for his diabetes and it regulates the numbers that he can still eat what he wants, when he wants. That includes his love for all things sugary!

Lou Lou and Sister are working hard to try and convince him otherwise, but it is proving to be a hard sell with 'ole Papa. He's got a stubborn streak in him a mile long!!

Lou Lou sat down with Papa one night last week to discuss the numbers she was seeing with his lab work. His response to Lou Lou's concern over his sugar readings, "Ahhh...that's not too bad."

"What in the name of Yonder?!?!" Lou Lou exclaimed. "That's still above normal with you taking medicine! That means you need to slow down on those sweets!!"

Turns out, Papa had eaten a doughnut or two and some pie the few days ahead of his blood work. So, he is convinced that was the problem.

Lou Lou just shook her head and decided to save that battle for another day. Her point was just as lost as the day she told him to cut back on his "treats" for Little Bean too! That went in one ear and out the other... those two apparently have the pact to do it their way or no way!!

Now, if the doctor doesn't support the things Lou Lou was saying to Papa when he goes for his check up with her...well, let's just say that

Lou Lou can pack her bags on that one! He will never listen to the "do what's best for you" plea!

Truth is though...he's

gonna do that any way, so Lou Lou might as well accept it!

Until next time...God Bless and Keep Smiling!

Share Your Views...
Write a Letter to the Editor

**TROY
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Due to Construction at our Elba Branch...

Drive-Thru Closure Anticipated Sept. 6 - Oct. 11, 2023

Dear Elba Customer:

Troy Bank & Trust has had a long-standing commitment to Elba beginning with our relationship with Peoples Bank, which began in 1997 with our acquisition of The Peoples Bank of Coffee County.

In an effort to improve our service to the people of Elba and our customers, we are renovating the Elba office. The result we hope will be a more functional facility that will allow us to improve our customer service and continue efficiently providing our customers with the best possible products and services. The renovations are estimated to take about four months to complete. **During construction the lobby will remain open for full service. Some drive through closings will be necessary.**

Currently Troy Bank & Trust, organized September 5, 1906, is fourteen branches strong with \$1.5 billion in total assets. Troy Bank & Trust continues to work each day to be "the only bank you'll ever need!". **Unlike other banks, we can never be sold and will always remain a community oriented bank.**

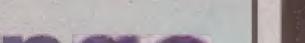
We have an experienced team of professionals located in the Elba Branch to serve your financial needs. Troy Bank is committed to Elba and the surrounding community and greatly appreciates your business. We are here for you. Please call on us!

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President & CEO
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Coffee County & Surrounding Counties - \$21 per year

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New Brockton Middle School principal Bradley Bowers is shown speaking last Thursday evening, Aug. 4, during the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new middle school building. Standing behind Bowers are Coffee County School Board members and Superintendent Kelly Cobb. Bowers thanked the board and superintendent for their dedication to the schools.

Elba Police Report

The Elba Police Department, between Tuesday, Aug. 1, 2023, and Monday, Aug. 7, 2023, conducted the following activity:

Tuesday, Aug. 1 - Animal complaint reported at 892 Cedar Lane Drive (7:31 a.m.); Animal complaint reported at 1007 Drayton Ave (12:12 p.m.); Theft of property reported at 1788 Highland Dr (1:43 p.m.); Reckless driver reported at 885 Cedar Lane Dr - w/arrest (7:26 p.m.); Disturbance reported at 615 Jackson Ave (9:39 p.m.); Suspicious person reported on Reynolds Ave (11:46 p.m.). Four traffic stops resulted in two written warnings, one arrest, and one citation.

Wednesday, Aug. 2 - Suspicious person reported at 2609 Hickman Ave (9:34 a.m.); Suspicious person reported on Herman Driggers Dr (9:45 a.m.); Suspicious circumstances reported on Hwy 189 N (4:26 p.m.); Criminal mischief reported at 626 Mullins Circle (5:43 p.m.). Four traffic stops resulted in two written warnings, and two verbal warnings.

Thursday, Aug. 3 - Criminal mischief reported at 626 Mullins Circle (1:45 a.m.); Suspicious person reported at 883 Troy Hwy

(8:07 a.m.); Suspicious circumstances reported at 672 Herman Driggers Dr (10:23 a.m.); Disorderly person reported at 412 Claxton Ave N (3:53 p.m.). One traffic stop resulted in a verbal warning.

Friday, Aug. 4 - Suspicious person reported at 100 Beaver Dam St (12:55 a.m.); Prowler reported on Roosevelt Dr (3:19 a.m.); Traffic accident reported on Hwy 125 (6:57 a.m.); Burglary reported at 883 Troy Hwy (9:29 a.m.); Fight reported at 612 Adams Ave (9:32 a.m.); Gas drive off reported at 221 Davis St E (1:29 p.m.); Gunshot victim reported at 1404 Reese Ave (2:11 p.m.); Animal complaint reported at 14922 Hwy 87 (3:27 p.m.); Stabbing/cutting reported to Elba Police - w/arrest (4:56 p.m.); Grass fire reported on Hwy 87 (5:22 p.m.).

Saturday, Aug. 5 - Suspicious vehicle reported at 145 Tiger Dr (12:15 a.m.); Theft of property reported at 1315 Hickman Ave (7:00 a.m.); Animal complaint reported at 333 Davis St W (9:05 a.m.); Reckless driver reported on Hwy 84 - w/ verbal warning (11:59 a.m.); Reckless driver reported on Hwy 125 (12:22 p.m.); Suspicious circumstances reported at 1033 Morrow Ave (8:03 p.m.); Grass fire

reported on Old Samson Rd (8:04 p.m.). Three traffic stops resulted in one verbal warning, one citation, and one arrest.

Sunday, Aug. 6 - Suspicious circumstances reported at 919 Reese Ave (12:49 a.m.); Suspicious circumstances reported on Larkin Rd (2:51 a.m.); Theft of property reported at 715 Lee St (3:56 p.m.); Reckless driver reported in area of Hwy 84 and Hwy 87 (6:26 p.m.); Animal complaint reported on Lee St - w/impound (7:44 p.m.); Animal complaint reported at 1089 Claxton Ave - w/impound (7:55 p.m.); Suspicious person reported at 973 County Rd 401 (8:35 p.m.); Suspicious circumstances reported at 1217 Morrow Village (9:14 p.m.).

Monday, Aug. 7 - Suspicious vehicle reported at 804 Hwy 203 (12:13 a.m.); Theft of property reported at 1315 Hickman Ave (7:00 a.m.); Animal complaint reported at 1607 Highland Dr (1:08 p.m.); Animal complaint reported at 14268 Hwy 87 (5:08 p.m.); Suspicious circumstances reported at 153 Larkin Rd (7:49 p.m.). Three traffic stops resulted in two citations, and one assistance rendered.

Obituaries

Obits are updated regularly on our website: www.elba-clipper.com

DELORES MULLINS

Ms. Delores Mullins, Daleville, Ala., died Sunday, July 30, 2023.

Memorial services were held Saturday, Aug. 5, 2023, at St. Mark AME Church Daleville, with Coleman Funeral Home of Enterprise directing.

Delores Lynn Mullins was born July 15, 1960 to Charlie Mullins Jr. and Icy Lee Faulk in Miami, Fla. She was a graduate of Daleville High School and was a member of St. Mark AME Church, Daleville.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Victor Blanks, and a sister, Debra Gray.

Survivors include her four sons: Victor Mullins, Killeen, Texas, Jamar Smith (Candace), Ozark, Ala., Adrian Hunter, Dothan, Ala., and Malcolm Smith, Enterprise; two daughters: Schmika Mullins, Enterprise, and Terese Zinerman (Ryan), Killeen; a brother: Collis Blanks (Inez), Daleville; two sisters: Jackie Lewis (James), New Brockton, Ala., and Evelyn Blanks of Daleville.

GLENDA SUE (KNOTTS) DANIELS

Mrs. Glenda Sue (Knotts) Daniels, age 75, of Elba, Ala., died unexpectedly in her home Thursday, Aug. 3, 2023.

Mrs. Glenda was born Aug. 15, 1947 to Joel and Julia (Mobley) Knotts in Phenix City, Ala. On Feb. 15, 1964, she married her high school sweetheart John Edwin Daniels. He was part of the first football team and she was co-captain of the first cheerleader squad at Zion Chapel High School. She was a poultry grower for 54 years.

Funeral services were held Sunday, Aug. 6, 2023, Westside Baptist Church in Elba with Rev. Ken Wilson and Rev. Bruce Williams officiating and Coleman Funeral Home of Elba directing.

Mrs. Glenda was preceded in death by her parents, Joel D. & Julia

Mobley Knotts; brothers, J. D. Knotts, Douglas Knotts (Maureen), Wallace Knotts (JoAnn), Curtis Knotts (Shirley), Lamar Knotts (Janice); sisters, Dorothy, Doris Whitehead (Morgan), Frances Boutwell (Leo), Nellie Stinson (Ray); along with her father-in-law, John Stillman Daniels, and mother-in-law, Ovie Rene (Maddox) Daniels.

Survivors include her husband: John Edwin Daniels; her daughter: Lisa Wade (Ronald); son: John David Daniels (Kris); grandchildren: John Calvin Daniels, Jaxon Wade, Jonathan Wade (Jasmine), Kaley Wade (Ben), Benja Livingston and Abigail Livingston; great-grandchildren: Piper Wade and Bella Ueltzen; and numerous nieces and nephews.

KENNETH MCLEOD

Mr. Kenneth "Kenny" McLeod, age 61, of Troy, Ala., died Thursday, Aug. 3, 2023, at his home.

Funeral services were held Saturday, Aug. 5, 2023, from the Chapel of Hayes Funeral Home in Elba, Ala., with Rev. Donnie Marler officiating. Burial followed at Shady Grove Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery under the direction of Hayes Funeral Home.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Wilma June and Carl Bascom McLeod, and sisters, Renee Forehand and Cheryl Little.

Survivors include his wife: Janet McLeod, Troy; daughter: Kayla Pope, Troy; brothers, Harold McLeod, Troy, and Randall McLeod, Good Hope, Ala.; sisters: Shelia Hardy, Elba, Sharon Moncrief, Troy, and Angelia (Mickey) Napper, Jack, Ala.; brother-in-law: Marcus (Heather) Pope, New Brockton, Ala.; along with numerous nieces and nephews.

The ZC team has signed with the Troy University Bass Team and will continue their education and pursuing their dream of fishing at Troy University. Fans will be able to continue following them on the Troy University Bass Team page on Facebook.

JANNIE DRAPER

Mrs. Jannie Draper, age 75, of Montgomery, Ala., died Tuesday, Aug. 1, 2023, at Capitol Hill Healthcare.

Funeral services were held Tuesday, Aug. 8, 2023, from the Chapel of Hayes Funeral Home in Elba, Ala., with Rev. Jim Ingram officiating. Burial followed in the Bethlehem Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery with Hayes Funeral Home directing.

She was preceded in death by her husband, James William Draper, and parents Annie L. Farris and Dorman A. Lawing.

Survivors include her sons: Shaun Draper, Montgomery, and Kyle (Tammy) Draper, Equality, Ala.

FISH (Continued from Page 1)

A big thank you goes to the trails and their leaders who planned and executed the many tournaments for the last four years that enabled the ZC team to compete: Wiregrass Student Angler Trail (Jason Cherry), Alabama BASS Nation High School (Jeffrey McCord, Darrel High), East Alabama High School Bass Trail (Eddie Daniel) and Strike King BASSMASTER High School. Also, thanks to FREEDOM MARINE for their \$9,000 in Contingency Award monies.

The ZC team has signed with the Troy University Bass Team and will continue their education and pursuing their dream of fishing at Troy University. Fans will be able to continue following them on the Troy University Bass Team page on Facebook.

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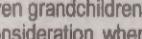
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What are my options if I want my whole family in one place? Spouses often wish to be buried together. Other times, whole families may wish to be buried together, including children or even grandchildren. If this is the case, it is important to take that into consideration when planning a burial.

A Family Plot. A family plot is just that. It is a space large enough for multiple family members to be buried. A family plot must all be purchased at one time to reserve the space.

An Urn Plot. An urn plot is a smaller space for the burial of a cremation urn. Depending on the size of the plot, it is possible for multiple family members to be buried there.

A Mausoleum. A mausoleum is an above ground building designed to hold caskets. With a private mausoleum, you can build it as large as you wish to accommodate as many family members as you want. Another option is a community mausoleum, which can house many caskets. A family could choose to purchase multiple crypts inside a community mausoleum.

A Columbarium. A columbarium is a building with niches to hold cremation urns. Families can purchase several niches together. As with a family plot, these will likely all need to be purchased at the same time.

A Home Burial. In some areas it may be possible to be buried on your own land or in private family cemetery. If this is the case, you will want to check with your local government office to find out if there are any restrictions or permits required.

There are multiple options available for families wanting to be buried together. Make sure you talk to your family members before deciding what you want to do, however, as it can be difficult to resell grave plots once they have been purchased.

If you would like a free funeral decisions guide, please email me at hayesfh@hayesfuneralhome.net

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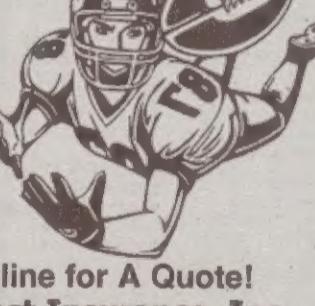
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CHURCH NEWS

PASTOR'S CORNER

by Dwight Johnson, Pastor
Elba First Assembly of God

I know that I am dating myself here, but...When I was in college at Southeastern University in Lakeland, Florida, a roommate from Arkansas told me that for the Christmas holiday, he was going home and would work his old job at Wal Mart. I thought that "Wal Mart" was a crazy sounding name for a business, and asked incredulously "What in the world is a Wal Mart?" I would also write and receive letters through the mail, call my family "long distance" on a pay phone, and eat at restaurants called Ponderosa and Bonanza.

Things sure do change. Back then, I couldn't imagine that one day I would have six grandchildren, and that one would be born in Africa. I wouldn't have dreamed that I would visit several countries, including six African. I certainly couldn't comprehend the internet, smart phones, Zoom, Google, Amazon, and more.

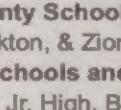
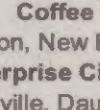
But through all the change, Jesus has remained the same. He has been consistent and trustworthy. He has been faithful! The writer of Hebrews was so right when he (or she) wrote "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever." James said that "God our Father...never changes or casts a shifting shadow."

So what does the future hold? We probably can't imagine. But, it really doesn't matter, for we know Who holds the future.

Prayer Walk 2023

Sunday, August 20th @ 4:00

All City & Coffee County Schools



We encourage students and teachers to attend!

Sponsored by Coffee County Baptist Women on Missions

Please commit to come and pray for our leaders, teachers, and children by meeting with us at the school of your choice!

ALL DENOMINATIONS are WELCOME to Come and Pray!!

All Schools in Coffee County
PRAYER WALK
Sunday, Aug. 20th @ 4pm

OUR FOCUS WILL BE TO PRAY FOR GOD TO INTERCEDE AND PROTECT OUR CHILDREN, TEACHERS, SCHOOL OFFICIALS, AND THE LEADERS OF OUR NATION. WE ALSO PRAY THAT LEADERS WILL WORK FOR THE WELL BEING OF OUR CHILDREN AND THAT THEY WILL HAVE GOD'S WISDOM AS THEY FACE EACH DAY. IMAGINE THE MAGNIFICENT POWER OF GOD RELEASED AS WE PRAYER WALK ON THE CAMPUSES OF THE CITY AND COFFEE COUNTY SCHOOLS...

"OUR GOD IS ABLE TO DO IMMEASURABLY MORE THAN WE ASK OR IMAGINE" EPHESIANS 3:20

New Hope Senior Center looking for new participants

The New Hope Senior Citizens Center is taking applications for new participants. Must be age 60 or older. For more information, contact Conzuela Banks, center manager.

Attend the Church of Your Choice This and Every Sunday!

Church Directory

IN HIM WAS LIFE AND THE LIFE WAS THE LIGHT OF MEN	COVENANT COMMUNITY CHURCH Paul Jackson, Pastor Sunday Fellowship .9:30 a.m. Sunday Worship .10:00 a.m. Wed. Night "Peak of the Week & meal .5:30 p.m. Bible Study & Prayer .6:15 p.m. until 7:00 p.m.	HOLY TEMPLE COGIC Timothy Williams, Pastor Sunday School .10:30 a.m. Mon. Worship .11:30 a.m. Wed. Bible Study .6:00 p.m.	MT. VERNON ASSEMBLY OF GOD Sunday School .10:00 a.m. Mon. Worship .11:00 a.m. Even. Service .5:00 p.m.	NEW PHILADELPHIA CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST Loreal Flowers, Minister Sunday School .10:00 a.m. Mon. Worship .11:00 a.m. 2nd & 4th Sundays
ABUNDANT LIFE CHURCH SAMSON, Ala. Richard Thorn Sr., Pastor Morn. Worship .10:30 a.m. Wed. Night Service .7:00 p.m.	DAMASCUS BAPTIST CHURCH Steve Watson, Pastor Sunday School .9:45 a.m. Morn. Worship .11:00 a.m. Even. Worship .6:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Service .7:00 p.m.	FAIRVIEW BAPTIST CHURCH Phillip Adcock, Pastor Sunday School .10:30 a.m. Morn. Worship .11:00 a.m. Wed. Prayer Meet .7:30 p.m.	INO ASSEMBLY OF GOD Wesley D. Ard, Pastor Sunday School .10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship .11:00 a.m. Even. Service .6:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Meeting .6:30 p.m.	OAK GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH Julian Mitchell, Pastor 1st, 4th Sun. Morn. Sunday School .10:00 a.m. Even. Service .5:00 p.m. Wed. Night Service .6:00 p.m.
ALBERTON BAPTIST CHURCH	FIRTH CHAPEL COMMUNITY CHURCH Phillip Adcock, Pastor Sunday School .10:00 a.m. Discipleship Training .5:00 p.m. Even. Worship .6:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Meet .7:00 p.m.	1ST ASSEMBLY OF GOD - KINSTON Matthew Morris, Pastor Sunday School .9:00 a.m. Morn. Worship .10:00 a.m. Even. Service .5:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Service .7:15 p.m.	NEW JERUSALEM CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST - ENTERPRISE W. K. Ellison, Pastor Sunday School .8:45 a.m. Morn. Worship .10:00 a.m. Even. Service .5:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Meeting .6:30 p.m.	OLD TABERNACLE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Lee Jones, Pastor Sunday School .10:00 a.m. Mon. Worship .11:00 a.m. Even. Service .5:00 p.m.
BASIN BAPTIST CHURCH Sam Self, Pastor Sunday School .9:30 a.m. Morn. Worship .10:30 a.m. Wed. Prayer Meet .6:30 p.m.	ELBA CHURCH OF CHRIST Philip Box, Minister Bible Study .9:00 a.m. Morn. Worship .10:00 a.m. Even. Service .5:00 p.m. Wed. Bible Study .6:30 p.m.	FRIENDSHIP BAPTIST CHURCH Scott Donaldson, Pastor Sunday School .10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship .11:00 a.m. Even. Worship .5:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Service .6:30 p.m.	JACK ASSEMBLY OF GOD Matthew Morris, Pastor Sunday School .9:00 a.m. Morn. Worship .10:00 a.m. Even. Service .5:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Service .7:15 p.m.	PERDUE ASSEMBLY OF GOD Sunday School .9:45 a.m. Morn. Worship .11:00 a.m. Even. Worship .6:00 p.m. Wed. Service .7:00 p.m.
BETHEL AME CHURCH Deborah A. Butler, Pastor Sunday School .10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship .11:00 a.m. Wed. Bible Study .6:00 p.m.	ELBA CHURCH OF GOD OF PROPHECY H.L. Buckner, Pastor Sunday School .10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship .11:00 a.m. Sun. Night .6:00 p.m. Thur. Night .7:00 p.m.	LIVING WORD CHURCH Derrick Stinson, Pastor Sunday School .10:30 a.m. Morn. Worship .11:00 a.m. Even. Service .6:00 p.m. Sun. Evening .5:00 p.m.	NEW CHAPEL BAPTIST CHURCH Terry Godwin, Pastor Sunday School .9:45 a.m. Morn. Worship .11:00 a.m. Even. Service .6:00 p.m. Wed. Bible Study .6:30 p.m.	PINEY GROVE ASSEMBLY OF GOD - SAMSON Terry McCrumben, Pastor Sunday School .9:45 a.m. Morn. Worship .11:00 a.m. Disciple Train .5:00 p.m. Evening Worship .6:00 p.m. Wed. Worship .7:00 p.m.
BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH	ELBA CHURCH OF GOD David Noble, Pastor Sunday School .10:45 a.m. Even. Worship .5:00 p.m.	FRIENDSHIP HOLINESS CHURCH Edward E. Drake, Pastor Sunday School .10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship .11:00 a.m. Even. Service .6:00 p.m. Sun. Evening .5:00 p.m.	LIBERTY CHURCH OF CHRIST Greg Hanchey, Minister Sunday School .10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship .11:00 a.m. Even. Service .6:00 p.m. Thurs. Service .6:00 p.m.	NEW BROCKTON METHODIST CHURCH Dr. Craig Bailey, Pastor Sunday School .9:45 a.m. Morn. Worship .11:00 a.m. Even. Worship .6:00 p.m. Wed. Bible Study .6:30 p.m.
BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH Greg Cotter, Pastor Sunday School .9:00 a.m. Morn. Worship .10:00 a.m. Disciple Train .5:30 p.m. Even. Worship .6:30 p.m.	ELBA DELIVERANCE TABERNACLE Allen Richards, Pastor Sunday School .10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship .11:00 a.m. Even. Service .5:00 p.m. Wed. Service .7:00 p.m.	GRACE FELLOWSHIP John Curtis Isaacs, Pastor Sunday School .9:45 a.m. Morn. Worship .11:00 a.m. Even. Service .6:00 p.m. Wed. Service .7:00 p.m.	NEW EBENEZER BAPTIST CHURCH Randall Pearson, Pastor Sunday School .9:45 a.m. Morn. Worship .11:00 a.m. Even. Worship .6:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Meet .6:00 p.m.	PRAISE & GLORY WORSHIP CENTER Roy L. Turner, Pastor Sunday School .10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship .11:00 a.m. Even. Worship .5:00 p.m. Wed. Service .6:30 p.m.
BLUFF SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH	ELBA FIRST CHURCH OF PROPHECY Steve Renau, Pastor Sunday School .10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship .11:00 a.m. Even. Service .6:00 p.m. Wed. Service .7:00 p.m.	HARRIS TEMPLE COGIC W. K. Ellison, Pastor Sunday School .9:45 a.m. Morn. Worship .11:00 a.m. Even. Service .6:00 p.m. 1st & 3rd Sundays	LOVE'S WAY CHURCH James Jones, Pastor Sunday School .10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship .11:00 a.m. Even. Service .6:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Meet .6:00 p.m.	ROCKY HEAD M.B. CHURCH A. R. Williams, Pastor Sunday School .9:45 a.m. Morn. Worship .11:00 a.m. Even. Service .6:00 p.m. 2nd & 4th Sundays
BROOKLYN BAPTIST CHURCH Robert Davis, Pastor Sunday School .10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship .11:00 a.m. Even. Worship .6:00 p.m.	ELBA 1ST ASSEMBLY OF GOD Dwight Johnson, Pastor Sunday School .9:30 a.m. Morn. Worship .10:30 a.m. Even. Service .6:00 p.m. Wed. Service .6:30 p.m.	GREATER NEW ZION BAPTIST CHURCH Marvin Luckett Jr., Pastor Sunday School .9:45 a.m. Morn. Worship .11:00 a.m. Even. Service .6:00 p.m. Wed. Service .7:00 p.m.	NEW HAVEN BAPTIST CHURCH Brad Sasser, Pastor Sunday School .10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship .11:00 a.m. Even. Service .6:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Meet .6:30 p.m.	SHADY GROVE AME BAPTIST CHURCH James Boots, Pastor Sunday School .10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship .11:00 a.m. Praise Service Mon 5:00 p.m. Wed. Bible Study .6:00 p.m.
CHESTNUT GROVE METHODIST CHURCH Remonia Smith, Pastor Church Service .9:00 a.m. 2nd & 4th Sundays	ELBA UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Steve Renau, Pastor Sunday School .9:00 a.m. Morn. Worship .10:00 a.m. Even. Service .5:00 p.m. Wed. Service .6:30 p.m.	HAM UNITED METHODIST CHURCH Rev. Steve Renau, Pastor Sunday School .8:45 a.m.	NEW HAVEN ASSEMBLY OF GOD CHURCH Brad Sasser, Pastor Sunday School .9:45 a.m. Morn. Worship .11:00 a.m. Even. Service .5:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Meet .6:30 p.m.	SHILOH BAPTIST CHURCH Leon Fortune, Pastor Sunday School .9:45 a.m. Morn. Worship .11:00 a.m. Even. Service .4:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Meet .6:30 p.m.
CORNERSTONE BIBLE CHURCH Larry Mills, Pastor Sunday School .10:00 a.m. Sunday Worship .11:00 a.m. Wed. Night .7:00 p.m.	ELBA ZION BAPTIST CHURCH Lowell Martin, Pastor Sunday School .9:45 a.m. Morn. Worship .11:00 a.m. Even. Service .6:00 p.m. Wed. Even. Meeting .7:00 p.m.	HAWK HILL ASSEMBLY OF GOD Shirlee Ellis, Pastor Sunday School .9:45 a.m. Morn. Worship .11:00 a.m. Even. Service .6:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Meet .7:00 p.m.	MT. OLIVE BAPTIST CHURCH Olan Strickland, Pastor Sunday School .10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship .11:00 a.m. Even. Service .5:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Meet .6:30 p.m.	THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST Pastor Bishop E.H. Hill Sunday School .10:00 a.m. Noon Worship .12 noon Even. Service .7:00 p.m. Wed. Bible Class .7:00 p.m. Fri. Missionary Ser. 7:00 p.m.
WOODLAND GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH Cary Maulden, Pastor Sunday School .9:45 a.m. Morn. Worship .11:00 a.m. Even. Service .6:00 p.m.	HEBRON BAPTIST CHURCH Mark Cooper, Pastor Sunday School .10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship .11:00 a.m. Even. Service .6:30 p.m. Wed. Even. Meeting .7:00 p.m.	MT. ZION BAPTIST CHURCH Will Jordan, Pastor Sunday School .10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship .11:00 a.m. Even. Service .6:30 p.m. Wed. Prayer Service 6:30 p.m.	NEW HOPE BAPTIST CHURCH Lanny Shepard, Pastor Sunday School .9:00 a.m. Morn. Worship .10:00 a.m. Even. Service .5:00 p.m. Wed. Prayer Service 6:30 p.m.	Wooten Chapel Assembly of God Mike Medley, Pastor Sunday School .10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship .11:00 a.m. Even. Service .5:00 p.m. Wed. Service .7:00 p.m.
WOODLAND GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH Cary Maulden, Pastor Sunday School .9:45 a.m. Morn. Worship .11:00 a.m. Even. Service .6:00 p.m.	ELBA CHAPEL BAPTIST CHURCH Elba Chapel, Pastor Sunday School .10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship .11:00 a.m. Even. Service .6:00 p.m.	ELBA CHAPEL BAPTIST CHURCH Elba Chapel, Pastor Sunday School .10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship .11:00 a.m. Even. Service .6:00 p.m.	WOODLAND GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH Elba Chapel, Pastor Sunday School .10:00 a.m. Morn. Worship .11:00 a.m. Even. Service .6:00 p.m.	ZION CHAPEL BAPTIST CHURCH Cary Maulden, Pastor Sunday School .9:45 a.m. Morn. Worship .11:00 a.m. Even. Service .6:00 p.m.

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Round and About With Eria's Daughter

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Scripture: The Lord is my light and my salvation: whom shall I fear? Psalm 27: 1-14

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Orangig White, Church Families, World Leaders, The Less Fortunate, Ministers, Doctors, Teachers, Government Officials, Mamie Belcher

September Birthdays / Anniversaries

Shambria Samuel 9/15

Joanne King 9/15

Ollie R. Peterson 9/16

Deana Cole 9/16

Heather N. Knight 9/17

Johnathon Lockett 9/18

Wallace Daniels Sr. 9/18

Kennedy Nelson 9/19

Rose R. Coleman 9/20 (in memory)

Jeanette Tillis 9/20

Stacy Faison 9/20

Richard "Squeak" Cooks 9/22

Western nations than elsewhere in the world. To put it another way, the "face" of Christianity is changing. No longer is it white and western; now, it is brown, black, and yellow.

As the affluent

LIFESTYLES

U.S. Congressman Barry Moore to speak at Aug. 16th RWCC meeting

U.S. Congressman Barry Moore will be the guest speaker of the Wednesday, Aug. 16, meeting of the Republican Women of Coffee County to be held at the Enterprise Country Club.

The meeting starts at 11 a.m. with social time. An optional \$12 buffet begins at 11:30 and the program begins at approximately 12 noon.

Moore, an Enterprise native, served eight years as Alabama House District 91 Representative prior to being elected to Congress. Currently serving his second term in the House of Representatives, Moore serves on the Agriculture and Judiciary

Committees. He recently accepted the CPAC Award for Conservative Excellence for his 100-percent conservative voting record.

Everyone is invited to the meeting, but reservations are required. RSVP to Shannon no later than Aug. 13 at 334-494-2753 or rwcreservations@gmail.com and indicate if planning to eat.

Jack Day Car Show set for Saturday, Sept. 16

The 6th annual Jack Day Car Show, in conjunction with the 20th annual Jack Day Community Festival, will be held Saturday, Sept. 16, from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m.

The events are sponsored by Altrusa International of

NOTICE:

The Coffee County Conservation District will hold its monthly board meeting Thursday, Aug. 17, at the Coffee County Extension Office, 1055 E. McKinnon Street, New Brockton, beginning at 9 a.m. Only a limited number of people can be in the room so anyone planning to attend, should call 334-894-5581 x3



The Elba Masonic Lodge held its first regular meeting of the month Monday, Aug. 7, and Brother Kenneth Bridge Harrison was initiated as an Entered Apprentice. The food, work and fellowship were enjoyed by all the Masons in attendance. Those pictured include, left to right: (front row) Jack Caradine, Mike Amison, Daniel Stephens, Kenneth Bridge Harrison, Ashton Davis, Troy Gideon III, Tim Marler, Steve Dewberry, and Seth Hanchey; (middle row) Ray Kyle, Matt Brunson Sr., Dale Stewart, Eddie Kelley, Michael Phelps, Chris Johnson, and Johnny Davis; and (back row) Wendell Black, Tommy Morrow, Brian Smith, and Drexel Richards.



Coffee County Board of Education members are pictured above with the four teachers selected to participate in the Trojan School-Based Mental Health Counselors Initiative, a partnership between Coffee County Schools and Troy University. Pictured, left to right: Board members Eric Payne, Rhonda Strickland, Sherry Eddins and Brandi Carr; Coffee County Schools superintendent Kelly Cobb; Coffee County Board president Galen McWaters; Coffee County Schools special services coordinator Tami Crosby; teachers Camilla Harper, Anna Anderson, Jessica Lee, and Macy McIntosh; and Coffee County Board vice president Mike Bailey.

Four Coffee County teachers selected for new initiative to further their education in counseling/mental health

by Linda Hodge, Editor

Four Coffee County Schools educators received special recognition Thursday evening, Aug. 3, during the regular monthly board meeting for the Coffee County Board of Education.

The meeting was held from the auditorium of New Brockton High School due to a ribbon cutting scheduled at New Brockton Middle School immediately following the board meeting.

Tami Crosby, special services coordinator for the school system, addressed the board to recognize four teachers identified as candi-

dates for the Trojan School-Based Counseling/Mental Health scholarship.

"Coffee County Schools has been provided an opportunity to participate in a unique and exciting partnership with Troy University," Crosby said. "The partnership is the Trojan School-Based Mental Health Counselors Initiative."

She said this initiative has a focus on rural schools where students may have difficulty accessing mental health providers and services.

"This program provides up to five Coffee County teachers the opportunity to obtain a Master's degree in school counseling at abso-

lutely no cost to the district or the participant," Crosby said. "The cost of tuition and books are covered, and a stipend for additional education expenses is provided."

In return, Crosby said the participating teachers agree to remain employed with Coffee County Schools for a minimum of three years

after successfully completing the degree program. After graduation from the program, she said the teachers would be certified school counselors.

"Additionally, they will be ready to apply for licensure as a clinical profession counselor," Crosby said. "We appreciate Troy

University for choosing to include Coffee County to be a part of this initiative."

Crosby named four current teachers within the school system that had been selected to be the first participants of this new program. She said the program begins later this month.

The teachers participating will be Anna Anderson, special education teacher at Zion Chapel School; Camilla Harper, English language support at New Brockton High School; Jessica Lee, second grade teacher at Zion Chapel School; and Macy McIntosh, kindergarten teacher at New Brockton Elementary School.

The teachers were present for the meeting, and board members congratulated them for being chosen to participate in the new initiative with Troy University.



MONTHLY BREAKFAST GATHERING... Tuesday morning, Aug. 8, several members of the Elba High School Class of 1966 met for breakfast at Mom's Restaurant in Enterprise, Ala. Reportedly, all enjoyed good food and fellowship during this time. Those present included (left side of table) Harry Young, Neal Hutto, Butch Oggs, Bobby Edmondson, Lenore Anglin Tanner, Lewey Stephens, Jackey Tindol, and Merrill Shirley; and (right side of table) David Blackmon, Kenneth Baker, Eddie Thomson, Loretta Wilson, Sara Strong, Jerome Blackmon, and Terry Calhoun.

Military Support Group Meetings in Enterprise:

Enterprise Military Support Group meets on Tuesdays at 7 p.m. Anyone who needs to talk about difficult experiences and needs an understanding friend is invited. Meetings at Church on Boll Weevil Circle, 2017 Boll Weevil Circle, Enterprise, Ala.

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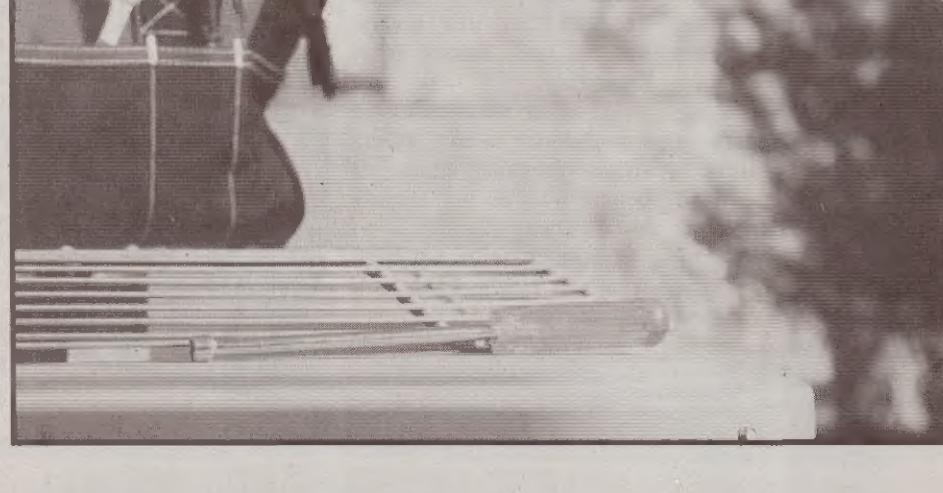
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PUBLICATION

Letters Testamentary of

said deceased having been

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on the 27th day of July,

2023 by the Honorable

Jodee R. Thompson, Judge

of the Probate Court of

Coffee County, Alabama,

notice is hereby given that

all persons having claims

against said estate are

hereby required to present

the same within the time

allowed by law or the same

will be barred.

Witness my hand this the

27th day of July 2023.

/s/ Jodee R. Thompson

HON. JODEE R.

THOMPSON

PROBATE JUDGE

Coffee County, Alabama

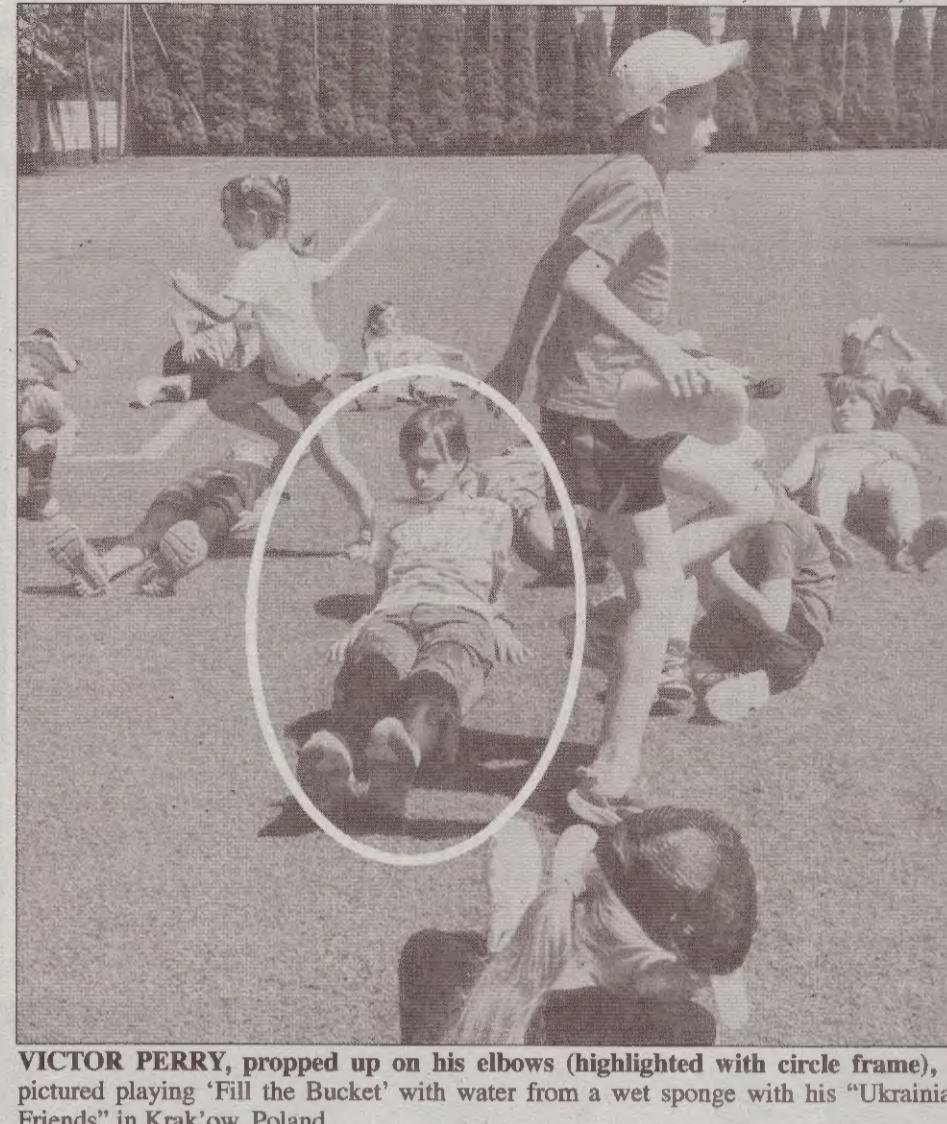
8/3,10,17-pd

/s/ Bobby Mayfield

Personal Representative

8/3,10,17-pd

THE ELBA CLIPPER • THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 2023



VICTOR PERRY, propped up on his elbows (highlighted with circle frame), is pictured playing 'Fill the Bucket' with water from a wet sponge with his "Ukrainian Friends" in Krak'ow, Poland

Victor Perry helps Ukrainian refugees

** Editor's Note: *Victor Perry and his mother, Elba native Cary Clark Perry, recently spent two weeks in Poland working with Ukrainian refugees.*

My name is Victor Perry, and I am 13 year old. I live in Columbia, South Carolina. Lee and Janice Phillips, of Elba, Alabama are my grandparents.

Recently I went to Kark'ow, Poland with my mom. The purpose of this trip was to help with a day camp for Ukrainian refugees children run by the NAVIGATORS, a global ministry working to help others know Jesus by investing themselves in their lives.

Mom's long time family friends, Brian and Candace, are NAVIGATORS who have lived in St. Petersburg, Russia for 10 years and had

experience! I really enjoyed working with the kids and the volunteers. I am now so thankful for all my blessings. The kids are going through a lot. I am happy to have food, friends, home, and family. Many things in life, small and large, have been taken away from my Ukrainian friends. Please keep them in our prayers.

They created a program called *Haven* which includes art programs and Bible studies. They started a day camp called *Epic* where Ukrainian kids could have a chance to be kids again and escape their surroundings.

The camp was divided

into two parts – the first part

was crafts, science projects

and snacks. The last half

was the most fun – out-

door play and lunch. The

kids were divided into four

groups and named blue,

green, yellow, and orange.

Each color group contained

12 to 15 kids and my favorite

part was helping with the

outdoor games.

I am very happy that I

went. It was an eye-opening

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Public Notices also are posted on the websites:

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that Carlson Environmental Consultants, PC of 1127 Curtis Street, Suite 100, Monroe, NC 28112 has completed all work on the Coffee County Landfill Gas Expansion Phase IV at 7733 AL-125, Elba, AL 36323. All persons having any claim for labor, materials, or otherwise in connection with this project should immediately notify the above-named Contractor and the Engineer, CDG, Inc. of 1840 East Three Notch Street, Andalusia, AL 36421.

After 12:30 PM Thursday

August 24th 2023. Personal

property of the following

SPORTS NEWS

Views From
The Pressbox
By Ricky Mularz, Sports Editor

Our grandson Lawson began school last week at Elba High and even though he had to walk from one end of the school to the other to change classes, he was happy about the start of a new school year and the change in schools after spending the past seven years at Elba Elementary. No doubt this little man is 'proud to be an Elba Tiger.'

For what it is worth....

*** High school football teams across the state have all now pulled on the pads and it is already interesting to listen to the fans of the various teams talk about the upcoming season. In Elba, the Tiger fans are convinced their team is going to be even better than last year's team that won the region and went undefeated in the regular season, while over in New Brockton a new coaching staff has Gamecock fans excited and convinced the team is going to 'sharpen the claw' after a winless season a year ago. Up at Zion Chapel, the Rebel fans are even more excited than ever and feel last year's success will carry on and the team will take the next step toward a return to its winning ways of old, and down in Kinston the Bulldog fans are convinced another winning season and a trip to the playoffs are in the cards. Over in Brantley, the Bulldog fans always expect to win big and make a run at a state title, and that is certainly true again this season. All the teams in the area do appear to be headed for exciting seasons, and I know the fans are more than ready for the football season to kick off.

*** With the start of the high school football season only two weeks away there are quite a few off-season changes worth mentioning. Coaching changes are always in the news, and this year will be no different as 104 schools changed head coaches during the off-season, with none any bigger than former Hoover coach Rush Propst coming back to the state after seventeen years to take over Pell City. Fans looking to scores of games on Saturday morning will need to remember that two high schools in Montgomery changed names, with Robert E. Lee changing its name to Julian Percy High School and Jeff Davis making the change to JAG High School. This season there will be 387 football teams taking the field in high school action, including public schools, private schools and teams that play 'eight-men' football. So, if you are a high school football fan the wait is almost over.

*** The old saying 'Follow the money' has never been more true than it is now when it comes to college sports. Last week's changes in college football alignment proved once again that TV money will always win over region rivalries and that what may be best for the fans and athletes is never a consideration. Who would have ever thought that Southern Cal, UCLA, Washington and Oregon would jump into the Big 10, or that Utah and Arizona State would head to the Big 12? When you add in the moves by Texas and Oklahoma to the SEC, it is clear the landscape of college sports has changed forever and the teams simply followed the money. An example of how little the colleges care about the fans is a scenario where Rutgers, another recent addition to the Big 10, travels to Washington for a Big 10 conference showdown. The drive to Seattle from Piscataway, New Jersey, is just under 3,000 miles, which means an average fan would be facing a 42-hour trip to watch the game. While the tens of millions of dollars in extra TV revenue will help the schools make the trips in football, what about conference games in sports such as softball, swimming or wrestling? These sports are already a financial drain on the overall budget at colleges, and now will be facing cross-country plane trips for regular season games!

*** A group of female soccer players that had an American flag sewn on their jerseys closed out their unimpressive stay at the World Cup over the weekend with a 1-2-1 record, and will no doubt go down in history as one of the least remembered teams ever to represent our country in any sport. While I usually love to watch teams from the USA compete against the world, no matter the sport, the fact less than half of the team would sing the national anthem prior to the matches split fan support, and obviously split the unity on the team. One popular female radio sportscaster went so far as to say "It means you go out on the national stage and embarrass yourself and your country," and declared that when several players even refused to hold their hands over their hearts during the playing of the national anthem "that was a bridge too far." I know everyone has the right to express their own feelings about things and that I am just an old country boy that writes a weekly column in a small weekly newspaper, but I too have the right to express my feelings and since the team didn't really represent the USA I could care less how they did.

*** The start of high school football and volleyball is only two weeks away and I encourage all fans to head out to the gym or the football field to support these young men and women. They work hard and they deserve it!

Wiregrass Wolverines improve record to 3-1

The Elba-based Wiregrass Wolverines added a win to their season last Saturday night, Aug. 5, in front of a home crowd at Miller Memorial Stadium with a 28-0 shutout over the Georgia Crushers.

Currently, the Wolverines are 3-1 on the season.

"We are rolling into a bye week for August 12th with our current ranking at #3 in the SCF [Southeast Championship Football] league," said Summer Love, one of the team owners. "We'll be back on August 19th to play a home game against the Savannah Raiders."

She said the Raiders currently are ranked fourth in the SCF.

On Saturday, Aug. 26, the Wolverines will again play at home again when they host the current first place

High School volleyball season set to tip off in two weeks for area teams

While the boys have been hard at work all summer at high schools across the area, the gyms have also been filled with girls as they have put in countless hours in front of the nets getting ready to tip off the volleyball season.

At Elba High School, Coach Melissa Mularz will lead the Lady Tigers onto the court and have high hopes after missing a trip to the Super Region tournament by only one game a year ago. The Lady Tigers will compete in a four-team area along with Kinston, Houston County and Florala, and will open the season on Thursday, Aug. 24, against Zion Chapel, with the varsity, junior varsity and junior high teams all hitting the court.

At New Brockton High School, Coach Dawn Ezell will lead the Lady Gamecocks onto the court and will be looking to continue their recent success on the court. The Lady Gamecocks will compete in a four-team area along with Opp, Pike County and Straughn, and will open the season on Monday, Aug. 28, with a varsity tri-match in Geneva against Geneva and Geneva County.

At Zion Chapel High School, Coach Chelbie Mobley will lead the Lady Rebels onto the court and will be looking to continue their level of excellence in the sport. The Lady Rebels will compete in a four-team area along with Goshen, Highland Home and Pike Liberal Arts, and will tip off the season on Thursday, Aug. 24, when they host Elba in varsity, junior varsity and junior high action.

At Kinston High School, Coach Suzanne Elmore will lead the Lady Bulldogs onto the court and will be looking to continue their streak of state tournaments appearances. The Lady Bulldogs will compete in a four-team area along with Elba, Florala and Houston County, and will open the season on Thursday, Aug. 24, with the varsity, junior varsity and junior high teams all scheduled to compete.

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MIDNIGHT MADNESS...

It was time for the annual 'Midnight Madness' at Elba High last week as the Lady Tiger volleyball team spent the night at the gym to get an early start on the first official day of practice. The Lady Tigers will tip off their season on August 24, with a road match at Zion Chapel.

At Brantley High School, Coach Rena Earles will lead the Lady Bulldogs onto the court and will be looking to continue to be one of the state's top teams in 1A circles. The Lady Bulldogs will compete in a four-team area along with McKenzie, Pleasant Home and Red Level, and will open their season on Monday, Aug. 28, when they travel to Goshen with the varsity, junior varsity and junior high teams all scheduled to compete.

At Kinston High School, Coach Suzanne Elmore will lead the Lady Bulldogs onto the court and will be looking to continue their streak of state tournaments appearances. The Lady Bulldogs will compete in a four-team area along with Elba, Florala and Houston County, and will open the season on Thursday, Aug. 24, with the varsity, junior varsity and junior high teams all scheduled to compete.

ELBA LADY TIGERS

2023 Volleyball Schedule

Aug. 24	Zion Chapel JH-JV-V Away	4:30
Aug. 29	Zion Chapel JH-JV-V Home	4:30
Aug. 31	Luverne JH-JV-V Away	4:00
Sept. 5	Ch. Henderson Middle JH-2	3:30
Sept. 7	Florala JH-JV-V Home	4:00
Sept. 12	Houston County JH-JV-V Home	4:00
Sept. 14	Florala JH-JV-V Away	1:00
Sept. 19	Kinston JV-V Away	4:00
Sept. 21	Houston County JH-JV-V Away	4:00
Sept. 25	Red Level JH-JV-V Home	4:00
Sept. 26	Ch. Henderson Middle JH-2 Away	4:00
(Ch. Henderson Middle, Admiral Moorer Middle)		
Sept. 28	Dale County/Samson Home	4:00
Oct. 3	Kinston JV-V Home	3:30
Oct. 5	Red Level JV-V Away	4:00
Oct. 12	Dale County/Headland Away	4:00

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SPORTS NEWS

F'BALL

(Continued from Page SEVEN)

season wraps up on September 16, and if we continue to play like we have, we'll get a chance at the playoffs."

She said some of Elba's own residents have done a great job in helping carry the Wolverines to success this season. A few of the players she mentioned include Richmon Singletary, Dre

Jordan, Omarion Terry, Vilee Sams, Drake Stinson, and Ashton Davis.

Beyond giving young adults a second chance to put on the pads and play the game in this semi-pro league, Love said the Wiregrass Wolverines continue to strive to 'give back' to their home community.

"We just recently did a

back-to-school bash where we offered free entry for children, free food, and gave away book bags, t-shirts, and other goodies," Love said. "We hope all locals will come out and support the Wolverines in return."

Gates will open at 5 p.m. at Miller Memorial Stadium in Elba on Saturday, Aug. 19, for the team's next game, and the game will begin at 6 p.m. Admission is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. Concessions are always available too.

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ELBA!

These Wiregrass Wolverines players celebrate a home win at Miller Memorial Stadium in downtown Elba, Ala. The Wolverines are part of the Southeast Championship Football [SCF] semi-pro league. With a 3-1 record on the season, they are currently ranked third in the league. The Wolverines next home game will be Saturday, Aug. 19th.

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